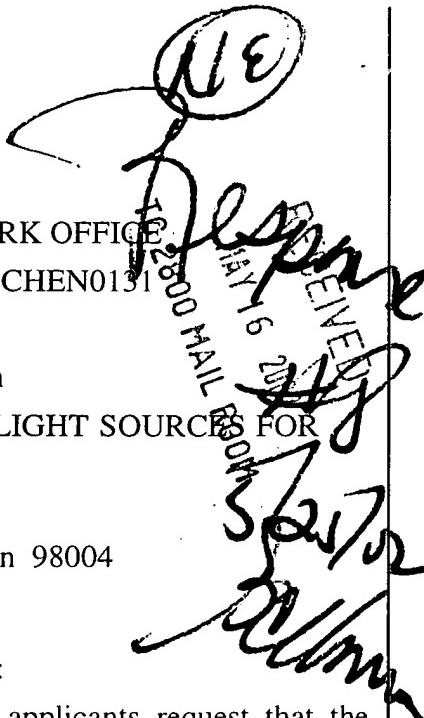


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Chen et al. Attorney Docket No: CHEN0131

Serial No: 09/597,931 Group Art Unit: 2875

Filed: June 19, 2000 Examiner: D. Hobden

Title: FLEXIBLE SUBSTRATE MOUNTED SOLID-STATE LIGHT SOURCES FOR EXTERIOR VEHICULAR LIGHTING

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Bellevue, Washington 98004

May 9, 2002

TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE:

In response to the final Office Action dated March 5, 2002, applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the application in view of the Remarks that follow. No amendment has been made, so no marked-up copy or clean copy of the amendment is included.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-26 are now pending in the present application. No amendment has been made.

Independent Claims 1, 23, 25 and 26 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 23, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker (previously cited) in view of Ishibashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,931,577). The Examiner admits that Parker does not disclose a plurality of solid state light devices mounted to a flexible substrate that emit light upwardly and outwardly (Parker's LEDs emit light inwardly into a flexible light transmissive material that directs the light to a desired location). The Examiner relies on Ishibashi for disclosing solid state light devices that emit light upwardly and outwardly, and concludes that applicants' claims are obvious in view of the cited art. Applicants respectfully disagree for the following reasons.

Because dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they ultimately depend, applicants will limit the present response to addressing how independent Claims 1, 23, 25, and 26 distinguish over the cited art. Note that Claims 2, 4, 8 and 12 are all ultimately dependent on independent Claim 1, and Claim 24 is dependent on independent Claim 23. However, while applicants choose not to address other specific differences between the art cited and each of the dependent claims, applicants do not intend to suggest that these differences do not exist. It is applicants' position that all of the dependent claims recite subject matter that differs in a non-obvious way from the disclosure of the prior art.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, and 25, applicants note that independent Claims 1 and 25 each positively recite an orthogonal array of light emitting devices mounted on a